

# STATE OF ALASKA

**SEAN PARNELL, Governor**

## **ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting**

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November 25, 2009

Ralph Moore, Superintendent  
Katmai National Park and Preserve  
P.O. Box 7  
King Salmon, AK 99613

Dear Mr. Moore:

The State of Alaska reviewed the September 2009 Brooks River Visitor Access Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Newsletter. The following consolidated state agency comments were compiled by the State's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Implementation Program and cover issues relative to ANILCA and other state interests. Any correspondence or response pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and the Alaska Coastal Management Program must be provided separately by the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management.

The State has long advocated for and strongly supports replacing the existing floating bridge at Brooks River with a permanent structure to reduce negative bear/human interactions and avoid potential habitat damage to stream banks. Constructing a bridge that will not, for the most part, be shared by bears and humans will not only reduce the possibility of negative bear/human encounters but also improve pedestrian flow in the area.

We also support choosing a bridge design that places the structure as far from the streambed and adjacent floodplain as possible. It appears this could be best accomplished with a suspension-type bridge as shown in Alternative 3. We anticipate the EIS will evaluate any impacts to fish and wildlife, habitat, and human uses and we look forward to reviewing the analysis. We will provide additional comments on the design once that information is available. In addition, we appreciate the outreach the Service extended to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in the early stages of the project. ADF&G staff remains available to assist the Service as the planning process continues.

The project area, being within a culturally-sensitive area, has the potential to affect the following historic districts: the Brooks River Archaeological District (XMK-051), which consists of numerous prehistoric house depressions dating back approximately 2000 years, and the Brooks River Camp Historic District (XMK-142), which represents the Service's first established permanent presence in Katmai National Monument in the 1950s. As this is a federal action, we understand the Service will follow procedures under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We recommend the Service continue to work with the State Historic

Preservation Office to evaluate potential impacts to cultural and historic resources and develop alternatives in the EIS that avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse impacts.

We also appreciate the intent to relocate the barge landing site to a less resource-sensitive area. We recommend the EIS provide more detail on the landing structure design, and clarify whether the landing will affect access to adjacent public shoreline easements.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to continued participation in this planning process. Please contact me at (907) 269-7529 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Magee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, prominent "M".

Susan E. Magee  
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator